United Nations E/CN.5/2009/NGO/8

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 November 2008

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-seventh session
4-13 February 2009
Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: social integration

Statement submitted by International Council on Social Welfare, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.5/2009/1.

08-62628 (E) 191208

Statement

Introduction

Social integration is variously understood. Some view it positively as a process of including all, especially disadvantaged social groups, in the development process; others see it as imposing norms of uniformity in ideals and values and disrespecting socio-cultural diversity. ICSW is committed to promote social integration as adopted in the Copenhagen Declaration at the World Summit for Social Development. The Commitment 4 reads: "We commit ourselves to promote social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just and that are based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, as well as on non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security, and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons".[1]

Social integration is about including all in sharing wealth through decent work, benefiting from education, health care, enjoying social protection in circumstances beyond their control and participating in decision-making that matters. Economic growth prospects will diminish, poverty eradication will be stymied and social and political stability will be threatened if inequalities and exclusion continue within and between nations.

Social exclusion is a feature of all societies when different rules and policies, formal and informal, enable some and constrain others in gaining access and entitlement to goods, services, activities and resources. Report after global report on progress in poverty eradication, full employment and social integration, over the past few years indicate a dismal trend in inequalities for billions of people the world over.[2]

I. The trends defining social integration

A number of trends defining the context of social integration are well known and without dispute.[3]

In the following sections trends affecting social integration will be reviewed.

1 United Nations. 1995. The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action: World Summit for Social Development. New York: United Nations.

2 To name a few: UNDP HDR 2005: Aid, trade and security in an unequal world; World Bank WDR Report 2006: Equity & Development; UNDP 2007: Inclusive Globalization; The Millennium Development Goals Report 2008; World Economic and Social Survey 2008: Overcoming Economic Insecurity; ILO: Global Employment Trends 2008.

3 UNDP HDR 2005: Aid, trade and security in an unequal world; World Bank WDR Report 2006: Equity & Development; UNDP 2007: Inclusive Globalization; The Millennium Development Goals Report 2008; World Economic and Social Survey 2008: Overcoming Economic Insecurity; ILO: Global Employment Trends 2008.

A. Increased population movements

Migrants make up three per cent of the global population[4]. Half of the world's 6.7 billion people are expected to live in urban areas by the end of 2008 for the first time in world history[5].

Ideally, cities offer an enabling environment for people's lives and livelihoods. They can resolve social and environmental problems more effectively than rural areas; cities generate jobs and income. With good governance, cities can deliver education, health care and other services more efficiently than less densely settled areas simply because of their advantages of scale and proximity. But the capacity of urban centres, especially in developing countries, to cater for the basic civic needs of growth is heavily challenged.

The juxtaposition of people who often share neither a common language nor a common religion, or who have very different customs, makes unusual demands on human tolerance and understanding. The arrival of large numbers of "outsiders" also creates unusual strains on existing social services and local economies.

Note must also be taken of irregular migration and human trafficking. Human trafficking, as a form of irregular migration including the buying and selling of humans for the sex industry, is currently one of organised crime's fastest growing businesses.

B. Population Ageing

Older persons risk being socially excluded in many ways. For many, the current financial/economic crisis has reduced, if not stopped, remittances from their urban offspring; the majority of the rural aged have no access to pension benefits because many have not been part of the formal employment sector where there might have been some pension coverage. Moreover, public assistance benefits and related services that would be the last resort for many of the rural aged have shrunk or are unavailable. The situation of older persons is compounded by (a) the erosion of the traditional family and community support systems, (b) increased rural-to-urban migration, (c) increasing proportions of educated older persons with high expectations and (d) greater pressure on social budgets to provide good quality health and other social services as well as income support for the older populations.

C. Women in development

Gender equality and the empowerment of women have been given increasing attention over the past few decades.

Yet many obstacles remain, blocking a fuller social integration for women because of legal and customary barriers, including family and labour laws and deep-rooted socio-cultural perceptions and

4 All data from "Global estimates" are from the United Nations' Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision, http://esa.un.org/migration, unless noted otherwise.

5 "State of the World's Cities 2008/2009: Harmonious Cities", UN DESA, 2007 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects.

practices. UNIFEM's report on the Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009 indicates that gender disparities are still prevalent in indicators of health, literacy, education, income and employment[6].

D. Prevalence of people with disabilities

People with disability face many barriers to full integration in society and are likely to face an increased risk of social exclusion. This may include being unable to access education, health services, earn a living or participate in decision making. Social exclusion is a major contributor to the level of poverty, which people with disability experience.

In many parts of the world, there is deep-rooted stigmatisation of disability and discriminatory practices against people with disabilities. Women and girls with disabilities suffer the most exclusion, including from mainstream gender equality programmes.

E. HIV/AIDS epidemic

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) *2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic* indicated that new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths have declined in recent years. This is encouraging and it is good news that the HIV/AIDS epidemic appears to be slowing.

But HIV-related stigma and discrimination severely hamper efforts to effectively address the epidemic. This applies especially to the most high-risk groups – sex workers, injecting drug users and men having sex with men – social groups which are excluded in many countries because they are criminalised for their behaviour.

F. Crises and adjustments

The current financial and economic crisis is creating a human crisis on a global scale[7]. Developing nations, in particular, are facing a sudden convergence of food, fuel and financial crises that will make it more difficult to protect the most vulnerable people. Experts say poorer countries could be hit twice by the crisis. It will be more difficult to get access to funding and exports will fall because the crisis reduces demand. For many developing countries, the crisis will mean slower growth and rising inequality.

G. Civil conflicts and disasters

The series of civil wars, communal and social conflicts the world over is fuelling social exclusion. Deep rifts and destruction of lives and property and social upheavals have arisen from these conflicts.

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6 United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009: Who Accounts to Women?, www.unifem.org/progress/2008/publication.html.

7 World Bank. Rising Food and Fuel Prices: Addressing the Risks to Future Generations, 2008.

The numbers of internally displaced persons have been climbing over the past decade, as conflicts within states have become more prevalent than those between states. More people forcibly displaced from their homes are remaining in their own countries in refugee-like conditions.

Climate refugees are a growing trend in exclusion. In 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change noted that the greatest single impact of climate change could be on human migration - with millions of people displaced by shoreline erosion, coastal flooding and agricultural disruption[8]. Forced climate migrants fall through the cracks of international refugee and immigration policy—and there is considerable resistance to the idea of expanding the definition of political refugees to incorporate climate 'refugees'.

H. Participation in economic, social, cultural, and political processes

On a positive note, globalization has contributed to the strengthening of people's organisations, including the poor themselves and civil society in general.

Neither democracy nor development can be achieved without effective organisation of people to pursue common interests. The awakening of civil society will foster development efforts.

II. Policy considerations

The commitments made at the 1995 Social Summit presented a key opportunity for policy makers and development planners to embark on a new development path, one that demands a shift to a more people-centred, equitable, community-based and participatory focus. The "new" strategy for sustained development entails incorporating social concerns in economic policies and investments in concrete and measurable terms; it requires generating more tangible opportunities and benefits, particularly for disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. It further means creating an inclusive socio-cultural milieu and social, economic and political institutions that are open and responsive to the participatory requirements of all the people.

While there has been progress in international commitments the factors outlined in this statement lead to greater social exclusion. This makes the efforts of governments, CSOs and the private sector in meeting the Social Summit commitment of promoting social integration more critical.

As a first principle of action, social policy should act on the structural determinants of income distribution and poverty: education, employment, nutrition, wealth distribution and demography, as well as on their associated gender and ethnic dimensions. These factors are the key to breaking the inter-generational transmission of inequality and exclusion.

8 United Nations University (2005) "As ranks of "Environmental Refugees" swell worldwide, calls grow for better definition, recognition, support", UN Day for Disaster Reduction. 12th October 2005.

A second principle is the rationale that, unless social sector policies and economic and social policies are integrated, any policy will be inadequate for solving the major social and economic problems in the current era of globalisation.

Lack of coordination and integration of social and economic policies can lead not only to excessively high social costs but also to the failure of the economic policies themselves through social conflict, political instability and other social upheavals.

Social integration is a difficult objective to attain. A key component of success is to strengthen policies and programmes to promote self-mobilisation of the poor and disadvantaged groups and their effective participation in community and national affairs.

Governments, private sector and civil society need to work jointly to identify the causes of vulnerability and address social exclusion at the community level. Organisations of civil society are particularly well placed to accomplish this task -- they are ubiquitous.

The private sector is essential in tackling the complex and deeply embedded problems of social exclusion. The private sector is an important link to access to employment. Privatised services have a major impact on people's capacity to improve their quality of life.

In developing and implementing policies and programmes all external and domestic development actors need to accord respect to indigenous knowledge, traditions and coping strategies. Culturally appropriate methods should be developed, taking into account people's language, culture, seasonal movements and related factors. Communities should be granted full access to and benefit from their own community resources.

NGOs should be partners in development. Evolving clear working partnerships between the government and NGO sectors through an on-going coordination mechanism will go a long way towards promoting non-confrontational communication and cooperation between them.

United Nations E/CN.5/2009/NGO/9

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 November 2008

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-seventh session
4-13 February 2009
Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: social integration

Statement submitted by Sisters of Charity Federation and Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.5/2009/1.

08-62634 (E) 160109

Statement

Social integration of migrants is one of the greatest challenges facing almost every government and society in the world today. Globalization increasingly requires international mobility as both developed and developing countries seek the exchange of skills and labour. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families can serve as a tool to promote good relations between regions, States and within societies in which migrant workers reside.

Relevant to the theme of the forty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development "Social Integration", we find that the more than 200 million migrants are among the most vulnerable and excluded groups. They contribute significantly to the development of both host countries and countries of origin, yet they are excluded from participation at many levels.
Although migrants are frequently recruited for jobs that are difficult and dangerous, they often do not receive benefits or the rights guaranteed by labor standards. They desire inclusion but are often victims of xenophobia. Many seek legal status but encounter insurmountable obstacles. Participation in political processes and active involvement in local communities is a goal of many, but is often unattainable.

Root causes of migration

There are both positive and negative effects of globalization which impact migration. The negative effects are some of the root causes of worldwide migration patterns. A fifth of the world's population lives on less than a dollar per day and almost half of the world's population lives on less than two dollars per day. Poverty is the leading cause of migration worldwide. Many emigrants also leave their countries due to political persecution, war, economic devastation and the effects of climate change. While unregulated free trade has proven to be beneficial to wealthy corporations and countries, it has exacerbated poverty in developing countries.

Agricultural subsidies in wealthier countries benefit a few large agri-businesses at the expense of farmers in developing countries. This contributes to many people emigrating in search of a means to provide for the basic needs of their families. Multiple debt obligations have forced many developing countries to reduce social spending, prompting workers to seek funds outside of their own countries for survival and social protection needs. Another source of migration is recruitment by developing countries to fill jobs either unwanted by host country workers or where local populations cannot sufficiently supply a labor force.

Social integration applied to migrant workers

A society for all is one in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play. Such an inclusive society is promoted by social policies that seek to reduce inequality by creating flexible and tolerant societies that embrace all people.

The sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights underscores that all people deserve respect of their human rights because of the inherent dignity of every human being, regardless of their relation to productive employment, their state of residence or to legal status. Article 16 of the Declaration states that "the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State". In host countries, respecting the integrity of the family is the primary way to assist in the integration of migrants within the community.

Social inclusion

The DESA publication, *Participatory Dialogue: Towards a Stable, Safe and Just Society for All*, states: "It is important to underline that social integration is not about attempting to 'overcome' diverse identities and collapse them all into one identity but rather about valuing the freedom to assert one's identity and achieve satisfaction and the sense of belonging, while embracing diversity."

Welcoming new members of a community can be a source of enrichment and appreciation of greater interdependence and mutual acculturation and can serve to counter the tendency of isolation and fragmentation at national levels. Women and children, often unacknowledged members of the migrant population, make significant contributions of a relational nature which could counter a legalistic, fragmented approach to dealing with newcomers.

Participation

It is a widely accepted principle for effective social development that those who are affected by decisions need to be part of the decision-making process. Planning, implementation, and evaluation by all stakeholders, including migrants and other vulnerable groups, are essential parts of the social integration process. To be deprived of participation means not having a voice and not being counted. Therefore, on the part of a host country, there is a need to address barriers such as language, cultural distinctions, educational background and access in such a way that new migrants can not only be served, but share the gifts that they bring from home.

Social integration creates the conditions for equal participation and allows migrants to share valuable knowledge gained from their life experiences. Creating a venue where local community leadership can interact with new members of the community (law enforcement, schools, clinics, churches, *inter alia*) in an open and meaningful dialogue will lead to building a better community for all.

One practical example of grass roots involvement is the following: Everyday Democracy (formerly the Study Circles Resource Center), a national organization in the United States, helps local communities find ways for diverse groups of people to think, talk and work together to solve problems. The organization works with neighborhoods, cities and towns, regions, and states across the country to help them discern how racism and ethnic differences affect the problems they address.

Everyday Democracy produces discussion guides on a number of issues to be used in the small group dialogue phase of a community change effort (available from www.everyday-democracy.org).

Recommendations:

1. That all member states sign and ratify The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

2. That governments and the Bretton Woods Institutions give greater attention to addressing the inequalities caused by realities such as free trade agreements, agricultural subsidies, debt, climate change, as well as national, regional, and international conflicts.

3. That all sectors of society, governments and civil entities acknowledge their responsibility to facilitate social integration.

4. That nations honor their Official Development Assistance commitments in order to reach the Millennium Development Goals which will help to alleviate poverty as the leading cause of migration.

5. That governments create legislation that fosters the protection of family unity among migrants.

6. That stakeholders utilize material already available, such as DESA's work on *Participatory Dialogue: Towards a Stable, Safe and Just Society for All,* to prepare themselves for social integration, especially as it relates to migrants.

That stakeholders at all levels utilize mechanisms to evaluate social integration with migrant populations, such as the European Union social indicators, and adapt them to the needs of their own countries.

Note:

Statement endorsed by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: American International Women's Association, Congregation of Our Lady of charity of the Good Shepherd, Congregations of St. Joseph, Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation, UNANIMA International and World Christian Life Community.

United Nations E/CN.5/2009/NGO/10

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 November 2008

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-seventh session
4-13 February 2009
Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: social integration

Statement submitted by Child Welfare League of America, Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, International Council of Psychologists, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of Social Workers, International Union of Psychological Science, Salvation Army, World Council for Psychotherapy and World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.5/2009/1.

08-62641 (E) 141209

Statement

As NGOs globally involved with families, we applaud the 47th meeting of the Commission for Social Development for setting its theme "Promoting Social Integration", with special attention to issues of poverty eradication as well as full employment and decent work for all. In addition, it is admirable that the Commission is promoting gender equality and fostering social integration for youth, persons with disabilities, and older persons, as well as migrants and indigenous peoples.

Capacity building, economic development, and social integration require funding and technical support from member states and donors. The solidarity within and among families in a community can facilitate social integration and result in the establishment and continuity necessary for social and economic development.

We recommend the following:

The Commission on Social Development should support and strengthen human capital by allocating funding to organizations that promote social inclusion and integration. Special attention should also be given to promoting the role of the family regarding: gender equality, including those members with special mental and physical needs. Empowerment to address development issues should also be given to indigenous people, youth and the elderly, as well as to migrant workers and their families. During periods of armed conflict and post conflict, the reconstruction of damaged or destroyed social sectors, including health, education, and social service institutions is essential to support the long term process of social healing and social integration. Member states, NGOs, the private sector and other stake holders should actively support, promote, and protect the right to employment, food security, housing, and health care.

A heart sheltered by a roof, linked by another heart, to symbolize life and love in a home where one finds warmth, caring security, togetherness, tolerance, and acceptance – that is the symbolism conveyed by the emblem of the International Year of the Family 1994. The open design is meant to indicate continuity with a hint of uncertainty. The brushstroke, with its open line roof, completes an abstract symbol representing the complexity of the family, viewed as the building block of society.

Participatory Approaches. Families should play an instrumental role in decision-making regarding the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies and programs that affect them. The participation of families, as well as the social integration of all groups can contribute to a sense of community and program sustainability.

Economic Development and Education. It is imperative that member states provide funding and technical support for the economic development and economic education of families and help them learn about the best practices of well managed economic programs. New technologies and media such as television and radio should be used to foster knowledge sharing within and between families. In order to promote the sustainability of approaches aimed at economic development, it is necessary to provide access to markets for both men and women as well as marginalized groups. Specifically, governments should enhance their investment in research-based best practices, such as: cash transfer

programs, UNIFEM's micro-credit financing, and incentives in the form of education grants. Such programs have measurably improved gender equality and the economic self-sufficiency of families and can break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

Work Place Environment. It is crucial that opportunities for employment as well as training are provided for both men and women as well as to socially marginalized groups including individuals with disabilities. Member states should allocate funds and enforce regulations that promote safe working environments where workers are assured healthy working conditions, equity, and justice.

Note: The statement is submitted on behalf of the NGO Committee on the Family. The NGO Committee on the Family/New York is committed to addressing issues and policies that impact the advancement of families within the context of the United Nations system.

United Nations E/CN.5/2009/NGO/11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 November 2008

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-seventh session
4-13 February 2009
Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: social integration

Statement submitted by World Youth Alliance, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with ECOSOC

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.5/2009/1.

08-62711 (E) 231208

Statement

Social integration is a process whereby all members of society live and work together for the common good. This process can best be understood as a commitment to *solidarity*. As solidarity is the foundation for sustainable development and the building of free, just and peaceful societies, the World Youth Alliance welcomes the choice of "Social Integration" as the theme of the forty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development.

Solidarity

We, young people from all regions of the world, commit to living and promoting solidarity in all human relationships. Recalling that the intrinsic dignity of each person is the foundation of all just human interactions, and recalling that this dignity is inalienable and cannot be mitigated in any degree; we affirm that every person is free, possessing the power to choose to act in accordance with the reality of the dignity of all persons.

In light of this understanding of the human person and human relationships, we particularly commit ourselves in solidarity to all those who live in need, experience the vulnerability and hardships of war, famine, disease or social unrest, and who suffer from poverty and hopelessness. In keeping with this commitment, we have addressed the theme of social integration in the context of young people, persons with disabilities and the family.

Themes of the forty-seventh session

The World Youth Alliance joins the international community in its commitment to integrate all members of society, especially members of marginalized groups, and to foster an environment that enables their integral development as persons. We particularly draw the commission's attention to the needs of youth, persons with disabilities, and families, particularly those living in poverty.

Youth

Global statistics on youth highlight the urgent need to integrate them into any development agenda. According to the World Youth Report (2005), youth - defined as persons aged 15 to 24 – constitute approximately 18 percent of the total global population (1.1 billion), and youth and children together, including all those aged 24 years and younger, account for nearly 40 percent of the world's population. In many countries of the world, particularly in the developing world, there is a youth majority with the creative potential to transform society.

Due to poverty and the associated absence of adequate health care, education and employment opportunities, much of the creative potential of these young people could be lost. Approximately 238 million young people live in extreme poverty, and of these about 133 million are illiterate. Youth comprise approximately 41 percent of the world's unemployed people. Today millions of adolescents, particularly girls, also face the prospect of incomplete education which increases their chances of living in poverty, as well as contracting infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

We call on states and civil society to invest in and strengthen basic health care, which will allow all members of society to live healthier lives and free them to develop their talents and contribute to the common good. Improvements in basic health care will also reduce the care-giving responsibilities of many young people, particularly in the developing world, and prevent interruptions in their formal education.

Finally we ask the international community to show solidarity with families - the greatest influence in the lives of young persons - and to partner with families and their communities to create optimal conditions for the integral development of youth.

Concretely, we recommend the following:

1) Member states should fulfill commitments to ensure access to primary and secondary education. They should also work in partnership with civil society to strengthen domestic institutions of higher education and to make university education and vocational training more accessible and affordable. The role of parents and families as the first educators of individuals needs to be respected. Families should be recognized as a critical structure for the continual growth and education of young people.

2) Programs that provide alternative educational opportunities for those children and youth who are most vulnerable, or the most marginalized should be introduced and supported.

3) Policies and practices that enable youth, especially in developing countries, to take an active role in the workforce through training programs and internships, should be developed and implemented.

Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities represent a significant percentage of the global population (approx. 10 percent) and evidence suggests that they are disproportionately represented among the world's poor. According to a 2008 report of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.2/2008/6), there are approximately 650 million persons with disabilities in the world. An estimated 80 per cent of these persons live in developing countries, many in conditions of poverty. It is also estimated that of the world's poorest people, 1 in 5 is a person with disabilities. Persons with disabilities are subjected to discrimination that limits their participation in society. Too often governments and communities fail to provide for the special health care and education services persons with disabilities need for their integral development.

The problem of poverty and exclusion of persons with disabilities is fostered by harmful cultural attitudes that see the disabled as undesirable members of society; such attitudes exist in both developed and developing countries. In many countries, pre-implantation genetic diagnosis and prenatal screening technologies are used to identify persons with disabilities prior to birth; these individuals are frequently targeted for termination based solely on their disability. This practice

ignores the intrinsic dignity and worth of the human person. Such discrimination must be discouraged by the Commission and recognized as a violation of human rights.

Solidarity with persons with disabilities requires an appreciation of their unique gifts and contributions to society as persons. We call on governments and civil society to establish policies and structures that ensure the integration and participation of people with disabilities in mainstream economic, social and political life. Such policies and structures would address the special health, educational and personal development needs of persons with disabilities and support those who care for them, in particular their families and communities.

Concretely, we recommend the following:

1) The development of programs, particularly within civil society, that encourage positive cultural attitudes relating to persons with disabilities. These programs should offer support and resources to the families and other persons who provide care to persons with disabilities.

2) The encouragement of educational opportunities suited to the needs of persons with disabilities in order to foster their integration in society.

3) Member States should protect persons with disabilities and other vulnerable members of society, from discriminatory practices that deny them their human rights. In particular, the use of medical technologies to diagnose disabilities in order to terminate the life of persons with disabilities before birth is a violation of human rights. Such practices must be clearly and forcefully condemned by this Commission.

4) Member States should fulfil their international commitments in the areas of health care, infrastructure, good governance and security and make provisions for the special needs of the most vulnerable members of society.

Families in poverty

Families sustain society and give life to the next generation. As the fundamental unit of society, the family ensures the sustainability of civilization and culture. It takes on essential tasks in the care of all, especially the weakest and most vulnerable. At its best, the family exemplifies intergenerational solidarity and its failure has tragic consequences for its members, particularly for children, and increasingly for older persons.

We call upon states to partner with families and communities in addressing the integral development needs of socially marginalized persons. Such a partnership requires the creation of employment opportunities and the elimination of discriminatory employment practices, particularly against older persons and women. It also requires the international community to fulfill its commitments in the areas of health care, education, infrastructure, good governance and security. Families, particularly those in poverty, disproportionately bear the effects of gaps in these key development areas.

It is through solidarity with youth, older persons and persons with disabilities that societies will make progress in achieving social integration.

Concretely, we recommend that:

1) Member states and civil society actors partner with families, particularly in countries facing rapid population ageing, to develop programs and resources that will facilitate home based care and foster intergenerational solidarity.

2) Member states should develop economic structures that do not penalize the choices of individual families in the provision of educational and other developmental needs of their children, and in meeting and providing for the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities.

3) Member states in partnership with civil society should develop policies that will promote economic growth, job creation and access to basic health care and education, particularly for families in rural areas.